



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

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FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Rt Hon Norman Tebbit MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Cabinet Office
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~~JAN~~
20 May 1986

Dear Norman,

HMI REPORT

Thank you for your letter of earlier today commenting on one of the Press Notices we have issued to accompany the publication of the latest HMI annual survey. I understand that Willie Whitelaw also had some misgivings about the heading of the Press Notice.

When all is said - and I say plenty, vigorously and often - about waste, bad management and ineffective teaching - it is still true that more money is needed. Certainly many LEAs mismanage: certainly many schools mismanage: but what they could with better management redeploy towards rectifying shortcomings would not eliminate the latter. Moreover there are LEAs - most shires, for instance - which do not mismanage where more resources are certainly needed.

Any attempt to hide the resource issues would undoubtedly have led to widespread criticism, which would have distracted attention from the other valid points about management etc which are brought out in the report and the press notice, and in my statement.

Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, other members of Cabinet, David Swinton and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours,
Kevin*